OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/sweden

For more information about ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, visit: hatecrime.osce.org/our-methodology

1 2020

Summary

Sweden regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Hate crime reports are published every second year. Since 2016, the Government has implemented a national plan against racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime. The plan takes an integrated approach and comprises strategies and measures to prevent and combat racism and hate crime through co-ordination and monitoring, education and research, and support for and co-operation with civil society. A new Action Plan to Combat Racism and Hate Crimes was launched in December 2024.

Three different victimization surveys are conducted at one, two and three-year intervals in order to measure unreported hate crime.

Hate crime data collection in Sweden
Support for hate crime victims in Sweden
Hate crime capacity building in Sweden
Sweden's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Sweden's efforts in addressing hate crimes in a comprehensive manner as well as the submitted information on the overall hate crime situation in the country. However, based on the available information, it observes that Sweden has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by judiciary to ODIHR. Otherwise, ODIHR observes that Sweden has met most of its OSCE commitments on hate crime.

Official Data

A total of 3,709 cases were recorded by police, including 559 offences that fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime and are not presented here. The cases reported include crimes where hate was identified as the underlying motive. In 2020, Sweden's National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) used a different data selection methodology for hate crime statistics. Therefore, these statistics are not comparable with those submitted by Brå in previous years. Moreover, the lower figures for 2020 do not equate to a reduction in the number of reported hate crimes, but are a consequence of a change in the selection of reports reviewed by Brå.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	3,150	334	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below presents records referring to bias motivations. A number of offences involved more than one bias motivation.



Racist and xenophobic



Unspecified

This category includes unspecified bias motivations where it was clear that the offence constituted a hate crime, but the specific bias motivation could not be identified.



Anti-LGBTI



Anti-Muslim



Anti-Semitic



Other hate crime based on religion or belief

The breakdown of offences under this category was not available.



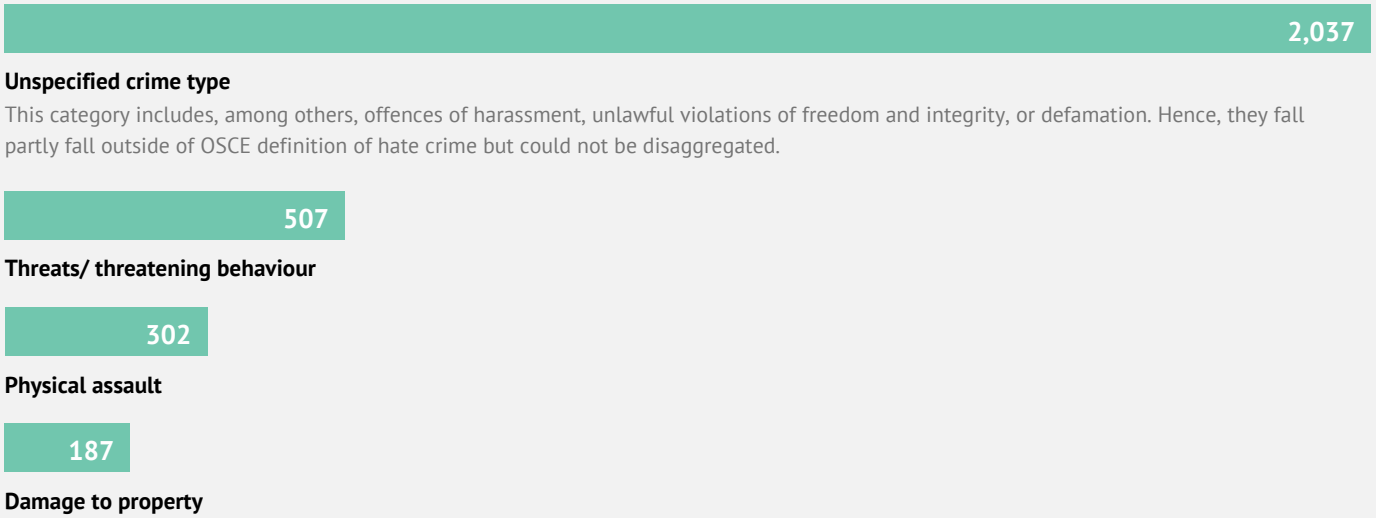
Anti-Christian



Anti-Roma

Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below presents records referring to bias motivations. A number of offences involved more than one bias motivation.



National Developments

In 2020, the **Swedish Police Authority** and **Victim Support Sweden** continued to work to enhance the skills of police officers and victim support volunteers to identify hate crimes, with the aim of increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system and reducing the number of unreported hate crimes.

The **Police** organized training events for local police officers to improve their capacity in responding to hate crimes, including in the area of the treatment of hate crime victims. Under the Bergslagen Mentoring Project, which is aimed at producing a handbook on hate crimes, further capacity building initiatives for police officers were implemented at regional and national levels.

The **Police Advisory Board**, involving, among others, members of Roma groups/organizations, the Swedish Federation for LGBTQI Rights, Full Personality Expression Sweden, and representatives of the Muslim and Jewish communities, met four times in 2020. A key objective of the Board is to increase confidence among groups targeted by hate crime.

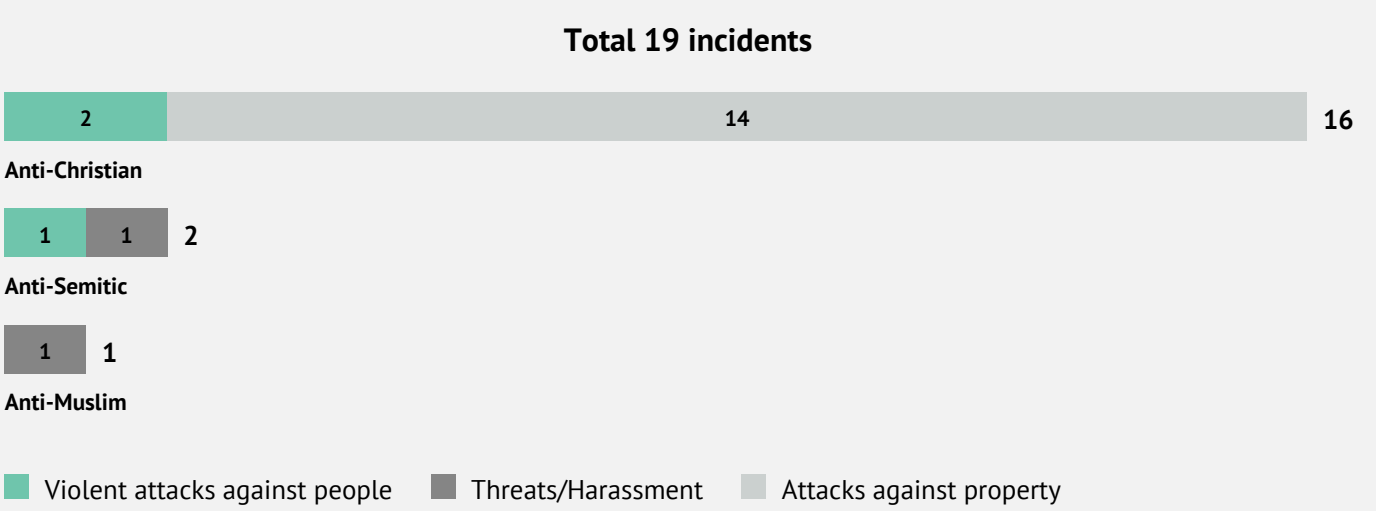
The **Malmö Police** worked with the Civil Defenders NGO and the (Police-led) Anti-Democracy and Hate Crimes Group South to address anti-Roma hate crime through a study, the report on which was presented at a conference in December 2020. Throughout the project, hate crime victims were involved and the initiative allowed for the building of a dialogue between them and the police.

In May 2020, the **Swedish Prosecution Service** organized a hate crime webinar focusing on proving the motive behind the crime, including the investigative measures applied to detect bias motivations.

The **Swedish Crime Victim Authority** organized a campaign and capacity-building activities on the topic of online threats based on bias for representatives of the judiciary and civil society, and continued to sponsor several civil society organizations and provided support to victims of hate crime through its **Crime Victim Fund.**

The **City of Gothenburg** continued to develop its anti-racism plan, in consultation with the Swedish Police Authority (the Anti-Democracy and Hate Crimes Group), in order to create clear guidelines and to improve the city's role as a service provider.

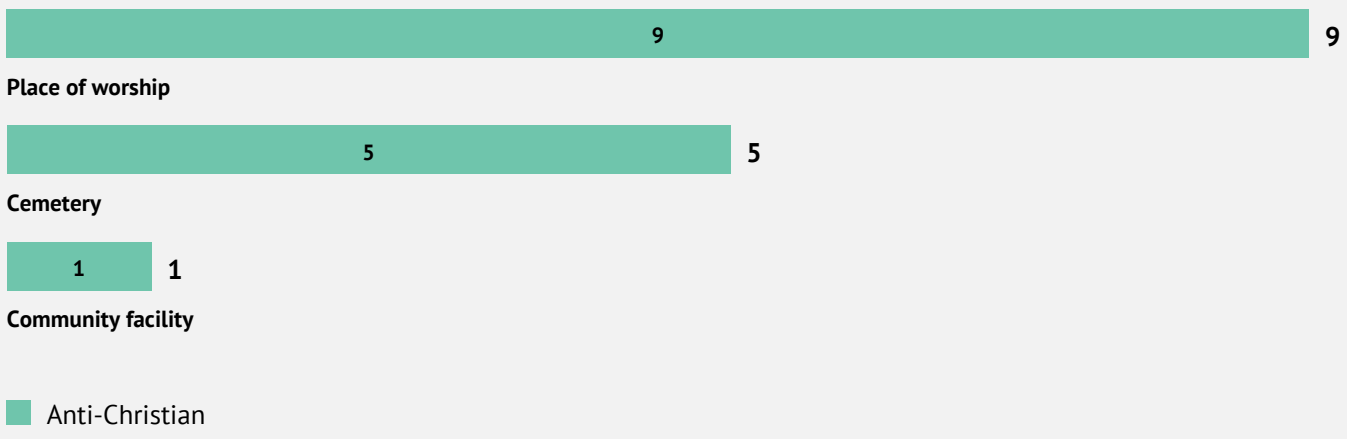
Incidents reported by civil society



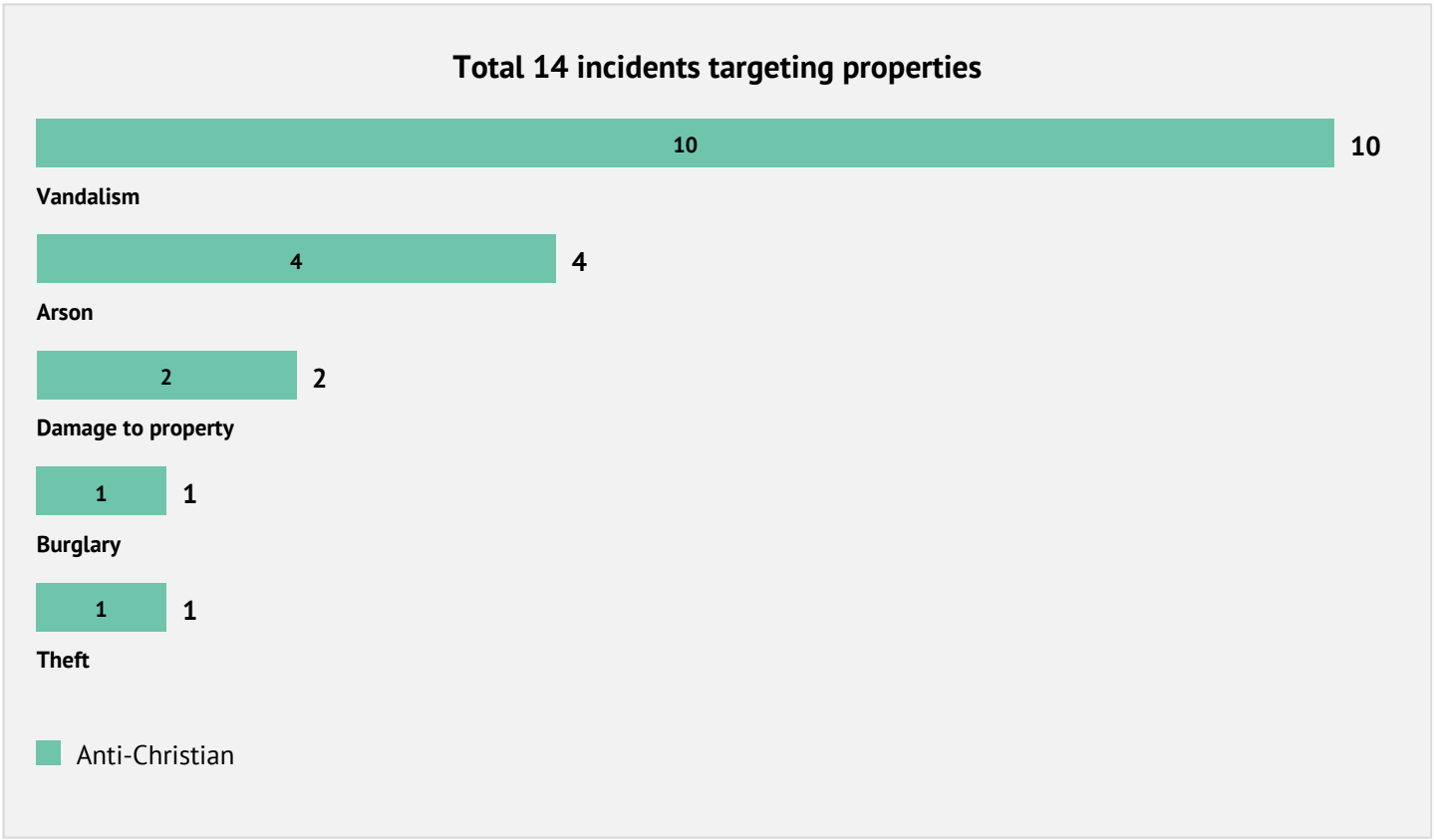
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes 1 hate incident reported by Kantor Center as statistics.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Sweden, 2020